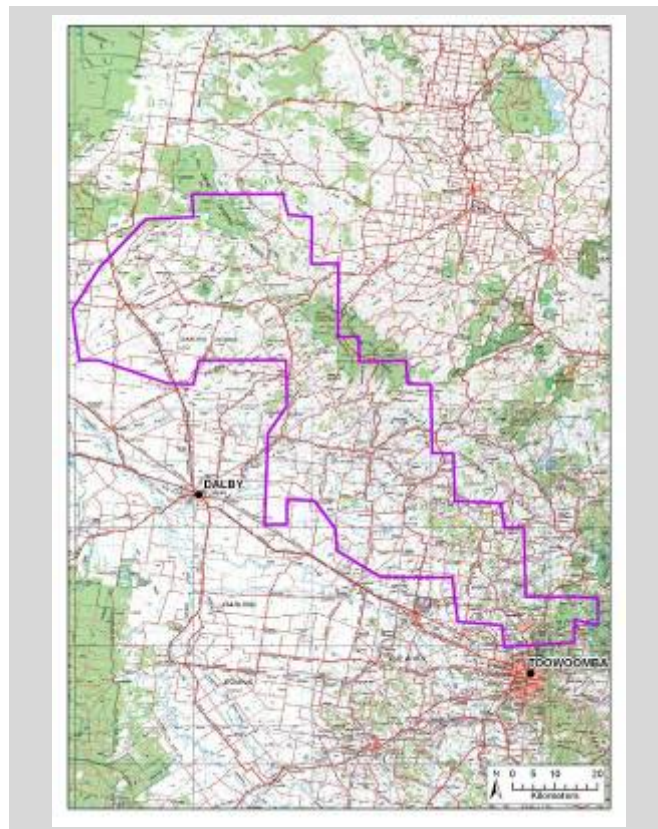


Eastern Darling Downs

MAINLAND ISLAND CHARACTERISTICS

Jurisdiction	Queensland
NRM Regions	Burnett Mary Condamine South East Queensland
LGAs	Dalby Regional Lockyer Valley Regional South Burnett Regional Toowoomba Regional
Size	383, 000 hectares
Dominant Type	Cleared, non-native vegetation, buildings
Land Tenure	Agriculture National Park
Surrounding Issues	Lack of native vegetation Land use Pest density



Overall Priority	Conservation Value	Threat Status
Very High	Very High	Very High

Key Biodiversity Values

Key biodiversity and conservation values of EASTERN DARLING DOWNS

- 38 threatened species
- 5 threatened communities
- 9 migratory species
- Very high species richness
- Very high endemism
- Native vegetation present
- Vertebrate pest species present

CONSERVATION VALUE

Categories	Ranks/Scores
1 Biodiversity values	Very High (16)
2 Uniqueness	Low (1)
3 Representativeness	Medium (2)
4 Adjacency	Very High (4)
5 Area to perimeter ratio	Very High (4)

THREAT STATUS

Categories	Ranks/Scores
1 Density of pest species	Very High (8)
2 Pest impact level	Very High (8)
3 Invasion fronts/range boundaries	High (3)
4 Land use risk	Very High (5)
5 Weed density	Medium (2)
6 Area without statutory protection	High (3)



Key Threats and Impacts

Pest Species Present or Potentially Present

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cane toad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Feral cat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Feral pig	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rodents
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Carp, European carp	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Feral deer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Feral water buffalo	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tilapia, Mozambique Tilapia
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	European red fox	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Feral donkey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Indian Myna, Common Myna	<input type="checkbox"/>	Weather loach; Oriental weather loach
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	European wild rabbit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Feral goat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mosquito fish, Plague Minnow	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wild dog
<input type="checkbox"/>	Feral camel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Feral horse	<input type="checkbox"/>	Red-eared slider turtle	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other

Potential impacts of pest species on matters of National Environmental Significance

Cane toad <i>Merops ornatus</i>		Feral goat <i>Cadellia pentastylis</i> <i>Pterostylis cobarensis</i> <i>Petrogale penicillata</i> <i>Sarcochilus hartmannii</i>	
Feral cat <i>Anomalopus mackayi</i> <i>Petrogale penicillata</i> <i>Apus pacificus</i> <i>Potorous tridactylus tridactylus</i> <i>Neochmia ruficauda ruficauda</i> <i>Turnix melanogaster</i> <i>Monarcha melanopsis</i> <i>Tympanocryptis lineata pingui colla</i> Brigalow (<i>Acacia harpophylla</i> dominant and co-dominant)		Rodent <i>Tympanocryptis lineata pingui colla</i>	
Wild dog <i>Merops ornatus</i> <i>Potorous tridactylus tridactylus</i> <i>Petrogale penicillata</i> <i>Tympanocryptis lineata pingui colla</i>		Feral pig <i>Cadellia pentastylis</i> <i>Mixophyes iteratus</i> <i>Denhamia parvifolia</i> <i>Turnix melanogaster</i> <i>Diuris sheaffiana</i> White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland	
European red fox <i>Anomalopus mackayi</i> <i>Petrogale penicillata</i> <i>Erythrorchis radiatus</i> <i>Potorous tridactylus tridactylus</i> <i>Gallinago hardwickii</i> <i>Rostratula australis</i> <i>Merops ornatus</i> <i>Turnix melanogaster</i> <i>Neochmia ruficauda ruficauda</i> <i>Tympanocryptis lineata pingui colla</i>		European wild rabbit <i>Diuris sheaffiana</i> <i>Thesium australe</i> <i>Petrogale penicillata</i> <i>Xanthomyza phrygia</i> <i>Tympanocryptis lineata pingui colla</i>	

Other threatening processes

- Situated on pest invasion front / range boundary
- High risk land use
- Lack of statutory protection

Highest priority biodiversity issues

Pest impacts on *Petrogale penicillata* and *Tympanocryptis lineata pingui colla*

Pest management actions listed in recovery plans for *Mixophyes iterates* and *Xanthomyza phrygia*



CRITICAL SYNOPSIS OF VERTEBRATE PEST MANAGEMENT REGIME

Need for vertebrate pest management	<p>Eastern Darling Downs mainland island provides habitat for numerous species protected under the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> and <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>. Vertebrate pests pose a significant threat to the survival of these species. Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service has a legal obligation to manage pests within the Bunya Mountains National Park under the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>.</p>
Planning instruments	<p>The following management plans apply to the Eastern Darling Downs mainland island;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Regeneration Plan for Bunya Mountains National Park (Recovery) (QPWS, 2009) ■ Dalby Regional Pest Management Plan ■ Natural Resource Management Action Plan, Lockyer Valley Regional Council (Aquila NRM, 2008)
Management actions	<p>Management actions identified in the relevant plans for the island area include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ South Burnett Regional Council implements wild dog and rabbit control programs including baiting and trapping. ■ Toowoomba Council implements numerous control programs for wild dog, dingo, rabbit, rodents and other vertebrate pest species. ■ Rabbit proof fence which is maintained by the Darling Downs – Moreton Rabbit board ■ QPWS identified in the Regeneration Plan for Bunya Mountains National Park that a Pest Management Strategy would be developed and implemented <p>Details of the outcomes of these control measures are not available.</p>
Monitoring regimes	<p>No details of monitoring regimes are available.</p>
Management responsibility	<p>Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service Darling Downs-Moreton Rabbit Board Private landholders</p>
Cost-benefit analysis	<p>The Qld Pest Animal Strategy states that decisions regarding pest management must be made based on reliable information. The Strategy further indicates that part of the information gathering stage should include a cost/benefit analysis of various management options.</p> <p>In the 2004–05 financial year, maintenance costs for the Darling Downs- Moreton Rabbit Proof Fence were more than \$900 000. It has been estimated that these measures save land managers (in the 19 shires and cities protected by the fence) approximately \$30 million per year (Hunter et al, 2008).</p>
Special features	<p>The Darling Downs – Moreton Rabbit board maintains a rabbit proof fence which extends between Mt Gipps (near Rathdowney) and Goombi (between Chinchilla and Miles). Some parts of the fence also serve as a wild dog fence.</p>
Summary / comments	<p>Pests represent a significant threat to biodiversity and agricultural productivity within the Eastern Darling Downs mainland island. Consequently, there is significant financial investment in pest management and incursion prevention in the region.</p>

References:

Aquila NRM (2008) Natural Resource Management Action Plan, Lockyer Valley Regional Council. Report prepared for Lockyer Valley Regional Council. <http://www.lockyervalley.qld.gov.au/documents/LockyerNRMAActionPlan.pdf>

C. Hunter, K. Johnson and R. Osmond, Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (2008) Rabbit control in Queensland. A guide for land managers. The State of Queensland, Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries.

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (2009) Regeneration Plan for Bunya Mountains National Parks (Recovery). Queensland Government.
http://www.epa.qld.gov.au/publications/p02965aa.pdf/Regeneration_Plan_for_Bunya_Mountains_National_Park_Recovery.pdf

